



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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**DOH URGES DISADVANTAGED VENDORS TO APPLY FOR
CERTIFICATION TO QUALIFY FOR EPA PROGRAMS**

HONOLULU -- The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Environmental Program is urging minority- and women-owned businesses to apply to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) at 808-541-2990 for certification as a Section 8 business, or to the State Department of Transportation (DOT) at 808-587-2023 for certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE).

Starting on October 1, only certified, minority-owned and women-owned businesses can participate in the Environmental Protection Agency's "fair share" purchasing program. "Fair Share" refers to EPA's policy that small, minority, and women-owned businesses be afforded maximum practical opportunity to participate as contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and otherwise in EPA-awarded financial assistance programs.

"We encourage purchasing from minority-owned or women-owned businesses in order to support fair share goals that are negotiated by all EPA grantees," said Laurence Lau, deputy director for Environmental Health. "Certification increases vendor access to EPA grantees nationwide."

(more)

Certification will not guarantee procurement by Hawai'i's EPA grantees, including the State's health, agriculture, and business and economic development departments and most subcontractors.

EPA's new certification requirement also does not prohibit a contract with a non-certified minority- or women-owned business. It simply means that non-certified vendors will not count toward a grantee's accomplishments. Lau advises businesses that do not qualify for Small Business Administration or Department of Transportation certification to call EPA at 202-566-2075 or 415-972-3761.

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For more information, contact
Pat Sasaki
Environmental Resources Office
Phone: (808) 586-4579

Laurence Lau
Environmental Health Administration
Phone: (808) 586-4424